Gambling Problems in the Military

Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program Department

Michael Catanzaro MFT

Assistant Department Head

William White GySgt

Presentation Objectives

- Provide a history of compulsive gambling
- Provide information on SARPD's joint service model program for Pathological Gambling Rehabilitation for command and surgeon generals
- Review self-reported gambling behaviors effects on individual military readiness
- Assess impact of compulsive gambling on military readiness

History of Gambling

- Gambling traditions at home, & abroad are often unnoticed until significant problems develop
- Gamblers and their families often experience difficulty and misery due to their individual obsession to gamble
- Gambling fever is addictive, progressive and dangerous

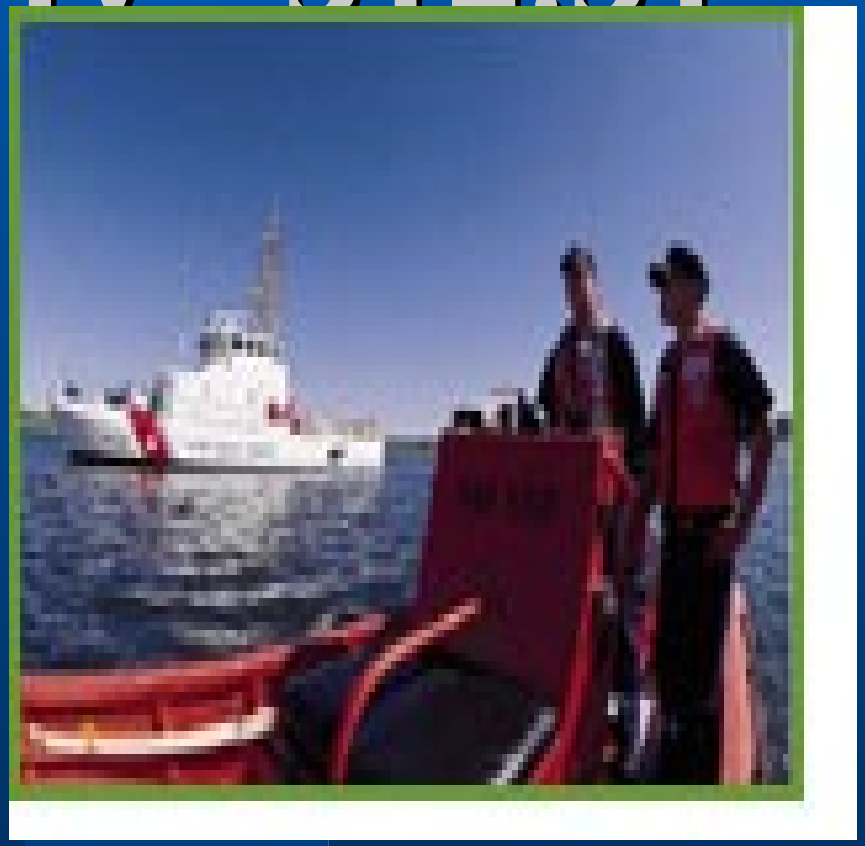
Pathological Gambling Diagnostic Criteria DSM-IV 312.31

- Persistent, recurrent maladaptive gambling behavior
- Preoccupied with gambling
- Need to increase bet to achieve desired

  excitement
- Unsuccessful in efforts to reduce

  stop gambling

Pathological Gambling Diagnostic Criteria DSM-IV 312.31



- Restless/irritable when trying to stop or reduce gambling
- Gambles to escape from problems or relieve feelings of helplessness, hopelessness, guilt, anxiety or depression
- After losing money gambling , individual returns another day to get even

Pathological Gambling Diagnostic Criteria DSM-IV-TR 312.31

- Lies to family members, therapist, or others to conceal the extent of involvement with gambling
- To finance gambling, may commit illegal acts (forgery, fraud, theft & embezzlement)
- Individual may have jeopardized/lost significant relationships, job, education or career opportunity

Pathological Gambling Diagnostic Criteria DSM-

- **Individual relies on others to provide money to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by gambling**

1998 World Wide Military Health Survey Statistics on Gambling

- 1.25 million military personnel
- 17,000 responded to this health survey
- Data demonstrated that 2.2% of respondents show signs of problem and pathological gambling

Program Development

- Naval Hospital Long Beach, California 1965
- DoD concern in 1992 initiated an inquiry to review the extent of gambling in the military
- Navy Addictions and Rehabilitation Education Department (NARED), NH Camp Pendleton, 1994 (website being updated)
- DoD repeated inquiry in 1998 to reassess the impact of gambling in the military
- October 1, 2002 NARED's name will change to Substance Addiction Rehabilitation Program (SARP)

NARED Program

- **The SARPD Pathological Gambling Program provides:**
- **Message of *Hope for Recovery* for compulsive gamblers**
- ***Spiritual Enrichment* principles**
- ***Fellowship***
- **Coping skills for *Relapse prevention***
- **Facilitate recovery by helping individuals *restore balance and serenity* in their life**

FOR MORE INFO…

SARPD Point of Contact : Mr. Mike Catanzaro (760) 725-0439 or DSN 365- 0439; GySgt William White (760) 725 - 9796 or DSN 365- 9796

Implications for Military Personnel

- Impact on family relationships
- Self-reported gambling behaviors effect marital,social, occupational, financial spiritual life
- Effects on individual military readiness

Gambling Effects on Service Member and Family

- Letters of indebtedness
- Bounced checks
- Misuse of government credit cards
- Security risk
- Forgery
- Embezzlement

- Loss of rank
- Divorce
- Lost work time/ productivity
- Forced retirements
- Bad conduct discharges
- Suicidal risks

Compulsive Gambling Program Analysis

- ***Strengths***
- **Only residential treatment program for *all* the Joint Services**
- **Experienced staff yielded a Perfect Score of 100% on last JCAHO survey**
- ***Weaknesses***
  - **Limited awareness of program's existence**
  - **Denial of the extent *of compulsive gambling in* the military**
  - **Waiting list for patient's residential treatment & rehabilitation services**
  - **Limited support and resources impact Continuity of Care**

Quality of Care

- **Ready consultative resource for joint services**
- **NHCP SARPD Counselors often provide subject matter testimony on military court trials for problem and pathological gambling for military members**
- **Provide continuing education and training for joint services**

JAY LENO
U.S. ARMY

Summary

Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton:

- **Joint service lead agent for problem /pathological gambling model**
- **Leader for training and education on compulsive gambling**
- **Sole joint service military source for residential treatment of compulsive gambling**

References:

- **Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program Department Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, California (760) 725-0063 DSN 365-0063**
- **California Council on Problem Gambling 1 (800) 522- 4700**